

Question on Notice

No. 121

Asked on 5 March 2024

MR S MINNIKIN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the total cost to the taxpayer for the European Train Control System (ETCS)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

The European Train Control System (ETCS) is a vital program of works to modernise Queensland's rail network. Investment in this system will be ongoing to meet population growth, now and into the future. The program includes various stages of work to roll ETCS out across the South East Queensland rail network over the next decade.

ETCS will increase network capacity across South-East Queensland by up to 20 per cent, allowing more frequent and efficient services whilst maintaining safe distances between trains on the network.

ETCS is the world standard for monitoring and safely managing trains. The system will constantly monitor, evaluate and help regulate the speed of trains on the SEQ Network.

ETCS provides a multitude of benefits including increased safety, reliability and reduced network disruptions associated with maintenance of conventional signalling equipment. ETCS represents significant value for money compared to both the conventional signalling system it replaces and the costs associated with the major infrastructure works that would otherwise be necessary to achieve similar increases in network capacity.

As per the 2023-24 Queensland Budget, the current published budget for ETCS is \$764.3 million (Excluding GST). Queensland Rail: Queensland Budget 2023-24 Capital Statement Budget Paper No. 3 Page 105 and Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Queensland Budget 2023-24 Capital Statement Budget Paper No. 3 Page 108.

As announced in SEQ Rail Connect, released in August 2022, the Queensland Government will continue the full rollout of ETCS across the entire South East Queensland rail network. Therefore the total cost for the rollout of the ETCS program is not yet known.

I have undertaken to provide updates on project costs twice per year, at the June Queensland Budget and at the Mid-Year Update.